NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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USDA TO LOOK INTO PRODUCTION PRACTICES OF VEGETABLE FARMERS

DENVER, COLORADO – Over the next two months vegetable growers in the United States will have the opportunity to provide first-hand information on their production practices when they participate in the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey, conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

"This survey will give vegetable producers the opportunity to explain how they use agricultural chemicals and manage pests responsibly to produce a safe, high-quality food supply," said Bill Meyer, director of the NASS Colorado Field Office. "The data will help support the policies and programs that protect the health and safety of agriculture producers, workers and consumers alike."

NASS field offices in 19 states will collect data for 29 target crops. Colorado will collect data on sweet corn. Beginning in early October and continuing through December 15, NASS representatives will be conducting in-person interviews with growers to gather information on their fertilizer use, chemical use, and pest management practices.

"The Vegetable Chemical Use Survey will help ensure that USDA and other agencies have the most accurate, up-to-date chemical use information, straight from the source – producers themselves," Meyer explained.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

The results of the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey will be released on NASS's website at www.nass.usda.gov on July 27, 2011. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Colorado Field Office at 1-800-392-3202.

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